

Date: Tue, 31 Aug 93 04:30:20 PDT
From: Ham-Digital Mailing List and Newsgroup <ham-digital@ucsd.edu>
Errors-To: Ham-Digital-Errors@UCSD.Edu
Reply-To: Ham-Digital@UCSD.Edu
Precedence: Bulk
Subject: Ham-Digital Digest V93 #25
To: Ham-Digital

Ham-Digital Digest Tue, 31 Aug 93 Volume 93 : Issue 25

Today's Topics:

 Comments please on MFJ 1270B and 1274 TNC's
 Passed test, what do I do now?

Send Replies or notes for publication to: <Ham-Digital@UCSD.Edu>
Send subscription requests to: <Ham-Digital-REQUEST@UCSD.Edu>
Problems you can't solve otherwise to brian@ucsd.edu.

Archives of past issues of the Ham-Digital Digest are available
(by FTP only) from UCSD.Edu in directory "mailarchives/ham-digital".

We trust that readers are intelligent enough to realize that all text
herein consists of personal comments and does not represent the official
policies or positions of any party. Your mileage may vary. So there.

Date: Tue, 31 Aug 1993 01:28:39 GMT
From: sdd.hp.com!col.hp.com!news.dtc.hp.com!srngenprp!alanb@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: Comments please on MFJ 1270B and 1274 TNC's
To: ham-digital@ucsd.edu

Bob Nielsen (w6swe@w6swe.tapr.ORG) wrote:
: In Ham-Digital Digest #22, Al, N1AL writes:

: >The 1274 is a multi-mode modem. The hardware is very simple -- a rather
: >crude PLL type modulator/demodulator with raw serial input/output to two
: >of the miscellaneous control lines of the serial interface to the host
: >computer. ALL the decoding is done by a software program (supplied) in
: >the host PC. This means you MUST use a standard IBM clone.

: You must have this confused with something else. The 1274 is
: identical to the 1270B, except that a tuning indicator for HF
: (similar to the TAPR tuning indicator) has been added.

Yes, I guess I got my model numbers confused. The one I was talking about
is, I think, the MFJ-1278.

As the lady used to say on Saturday Night Live:

"Never mind!"

AL N1AL

Date: Mon, 30 Aug 1993 10:54:49 GMT
From: swrinde!gatech!kd4nc!ke4zv!gary@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: Passed test, what do I do now?
To: ham-digital@ucsd.edu

In article <mvpCCG2uL.5Cr@netcom.com> mvp@netcom.com (Mike Van Pelt) writes:
>A few weeks ago, I passed the test for Technician No-Code, and the
>examiners sent my application off to FCC Land, where it's currently
>in a holding pattern.

Congrats.

>So, while waiting for my license, I'm looking at radios and such.
>
>Where's a good place to start to find out about what's going on?
>2-meter, naturally, for voice and packet. What about 70cm? 23cm?

Band usage is area specific. Visit local club meetings, talk to local amateurs, and find out what's hot in your area. 2 meters is sure to be populated, but you may feel more at home with the crowd on 70 cm in your area. It's very locale specific and interest group specific.

>Currently I'm thinking along the lines of a dual band 2m/70cm handheld
>that receives outside the ham bands, and a TNC for packet.
>
>What about baud rates? 1200 baud sounds horribly slow to me since I
>have v.32bis on my computer, but the few people I've talked to say 1200
>baud is The Standard for packet. What's the modulation for digital?
>It wouldn't happen to be the same as for phone modems, would it? Could
>I use my regular modem for a TNC?

Sadly no. Packet does not use the same tone pairs or modulation methods as telephone modems. 1200 baud packet uses the Bell 202 standard which is a *half duplex* standard that is not the same as the Bell 212 standard used in 1200 baud phone modems. Besides, most phone modems today are "Smartmodems(tm)" that have their own controlling microprocessors with embedded firmware. That firmware is *not* compatible with packet TNC firmware.

A good TNC, like the Pac-Comm Tiny 2 or the MFJ-1274, is in the \$120-\$140 range new and can often be found used in the \$60 range. Or, you can use the Baycom approach which is a simple single chip modem attached to your computer with the computer software doing the TNC function. Unfortunately, such simple systems are speed limited. If you want to run 9600 or 19,200 baud, you'll need the real hardware TNC and an add on modem which can run another \$100.

>What are good handhelds for limited bucks, and which ones should I stay
>away from? (I've seen a number of flames at Kenwood.)

The RS HT202 is a good 2 meter HT for the money. It's nearly intermod free, and fairly rugged. Better is the Icom G series, but you pay for that better. In dual band HTs, I still like the Yaesu FT-470 which has dropped in price since the newer FT-530 has come out. Alinco, Standard, and Icom also make reasonable dual banders, but all, including the FT-470, suffer from intermod to one degree or another. That seems inherent in wide band HTs. The FT-470 still excels in user interface IMHO, and has excellent power saver features. The features you want in an HT are ruggedness, low intermod, good battery life, and a user friendly control system. The very small HTs usually have limited battery life, aren't very rugged, and often suffer more intermod since there's less room for good filtering. Also, if you have average size fingers, the tiny radios are often difficult to operate and may require bifocals to see. :-)

Gary

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Gary Coffman KE4ZV	"If 10% is good enough	gatech!wa4mei!ke4zv!gary
Destructive Testing Systems	for Jesus, it's good	uunet!rsiatl!ke4zv!gary
534 Shannon Way	enough for Uncle Sam."	emory!kd4nc!ke4zv!gary
Lawrenceville, GA 30244	-Ray Stevens	

End of Ham-Digital Digest V93 #25
